

**Remarks**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above-identified claim amendments. Claims 1 and 3-15 have been indicated as allowed. Claim 2 has been cancelled. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicant

JHS/dhm

Dated: June 10, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

June 10, 2004

